



Annual Report
2014 - 2015

The background of the page is a photograph of a slum area. It shows a dense cluster of makeshift dwellings made of corrugated metal, plastic, and other scavenged materials. Laundry is hanging on lines between the structures. In the foreground, several people are visible: a woman in a patterned shawl, a young boy in a green and white checkered shirt, and another boy in a striped shirt. The overall scene depicts a crowded and impoverished living environment.

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Mission Statement

The mission of Asha is to work with the urban poor to bring about long term and sustainable transformation to their quality of life. Through a practical expression of the Christian values of faith, hope and love, we aim to provide holistic community-based healthcare, empowerment, financial inclusion, education and environmental improvements by training, resourcing and encouraging the community to receive and enjoy their basic human rights.

Asha also aims to influence the lives of its international audience by sharing local practice, experience and vision and facilitating partnerships where awareness and association between different cultures can impact and change individuals globally.



We Believe that

- All human beings are created in the image of God, and are of equal worth. Therefore the poor have the same inherent dignity, and rights that deserve our protection.
- Every person has a right to affordable healthcare that will allow them the best possible chance of living a productive and fulfilling life.
- Every child has a right to an education that will give them the opportunity to reach their potential, earn a living and grow in self-esteem.
- Shelter, safe water and sanitation should be available to all, regardless of their background or status within society.
- Women have equal rights to those of men, and those rights should be protected by both men and other women.
- Communities working together are capable of achieving great change, and can influence others to also strive for change.
- The poor deserve the chance to improve their financial status and their quality of life, and to break free from the cycle of poverty.

We are Committed to

- Working among the poor without discrimination of any kind such as that based on sex, caste, religion, language, race, colour or other status.
- Being at the forefront of the pursuit of justice and peace for the poor, and dealing with the systems that make and keep poor people in poverty.
- Challenging oppressive social structures and responding to injustice through non-violence and active peacemaking.
- Empowering the poor to lead full and meaningful lives, and building vibrant communities through the advance of love, neighbourliness, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Practicing a liberating generosity towards the poor and giving them the opportunities they deserve.
- Demonstrating earnestness in prayer for the needs of the poor and for all our partners.
- Valuing diversity and the skills and gifts of each team member.
- Maintaining excellence in the quality of our programmes.
- Exhibiting good stewardship of limited resources.
- Fostering effective partnerships with the government, funding agencies and other NGOs.
- Becoming a force for liberation and transformation of poor communities.

Asha Values

Through a practical expression of its values, Asha aims to provide access to holistic community-based healthcare, education, empowerment, environmental improvements and financial services to some of the world's poorest communities. Beyond the improvements to circumstances that come about through their application, these values bind us together - they define our identity and that of our communities.

Generosity is the act of giving freely because of the desire to and not because of the expectation of something in return. Generosity is motivated by love and always intends to enhance the well-being of others. It enriches life, and makes one feel content with one's share in life.

Compassion means 'to suffer with'. It is a deep concern for the needs of others. It is a recognition of and identification with the suffering of others. Compassion helps one to look past racial and cultural differences, and see people as one. It is a powerful and peace giving discipline of the mind and an important part of our spiritual path.

Touch conveys a whole range of emotions. It spreads goodwill, and is highly contagious. It helps us feel free to express ourselves, to share our struggles and to communicate feelings of gratitude, warmth and love.

Gratitude is not just a feeling of thankfulness in response to a gift or a kind gesture. Gratitude is a way of life. It is a conscious choice to focus on life's blessings rather than on its shortcomings. It magnifies goodness, and therefore blocks toxic emotions such as envy, resentment or depression that destroy one's optimal well-being.

Simplicity gives one a singleness of purpose, sincerity and honesty within. It allows a person to remove exterior clutter, irrelevant to the chief purpose of our lives. It means ordering and guiding of energy and desires, a restraint in some directions in order to secure greater abundance of life in other directions. It involves deliberate organisation of one's life for a purpose.

Optimism changes the boundaries of one's heart and mind, and the outlook on one's environment. It helps a person to see more possibilities. This openness of hearts and minds obey the warmth of positivity. It changes one's ability to see the common humanity within others.

Empowerment is enhancing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Empowerment enables the true potential of every individual to be unleashed for the benefit of communities and our world.

Non-violence essentially means abstention from all forms of violence. This includes not just physical violence, but also verbal violence and violence of thought. There is a complete rejection of aggression and confrontation, of thoughts, of words and of actions. It is based on the conviction that forgiveness can change even an enemy into a friend.

Justice means challenging oppressive social structures and responding to injustice through non-violence and active peacemaking. Social justice also requires equal distribution of the opportunities and benefits of development. It insists on the rights of all people to reach their individual potential.

Dignity consists not in possessing honors, but in the consciousness that we deserve them. Dignity is an essential part of every human being and it can never be separated from other essential aspects of the human person. It comes not from control, but from understanding who you are and taking your rightful place in the world.

Joy is a settled state of contentment, confidence and hope. It does not indicate a temporary feeling of pleasure or happiness, but rather a constant state of well-being, a continuous journey of flourishing. Its high energy clears one's thinking, disperses worry and other negative emotions making the person more creative, more trusting and more trusted.

Professional Excellence is the fruit of great cultivation. Vision, values and character are the invisible keys that determine how one's abilities, knowledge and skills can be optimally used to attain professional excellence. It is measured both quantitatively and qualitatively, enabling one to move from ineffectiveness to effectiveness, from ordinary to extraordinary, from good to great, and achieving excellence.



Children's Association members with Premwati after she recovered.



Delighted children of Tigri slum colony.

Premwati, an old lady from Tigri slum community, is overwhelmed with what the children from the community did for her. Living by herself, when Premwati fractured her arm, she became confined and dependent on her neighbours' help for her daily chores.

When the Asha's Children's Association learnt about Premwati's problem, they immediately decided to help her. They took turns to visit her daily and helped her bathe and plait her hair, cleaned her house, provided medicines, and spent a lot of time talking to her. They used funds from the Children's Association's monthly contribution and bought milk and fruits for Premwati, and also brought food for her from their homes each day.

This group of young and empathetic children ensured that Premwati did not feel lonely or handicapped because of her injury. With such good care, and surrounded by genuine love and compassion, Premwati soon recovered. "These kids helped me when my own family did not - it is a very rare sight these days. God will bless them greatly for this," says Premwati.



Asha's housekeeping team with Sona Devi, ensuring her comfort.

Sona Devi, an elderly woman from Dr Ambedkar slum colony, walked into the Asha polyclinic and stood near the reception. Abandoned by her only son, she receives free medical support from Asha. Seeing her condition, the security guard rushed in and escorted her upstairs, while the receptionist got her papers ready.

The team almost forgot about her presence until Shalu, one of Asha's pantry staff, saw her sitting in the waiting area. Despite having seen the doctor hours ago, Sona Devi had not left.

Upon persistent inquiry, Sona Devi shared that she had not eaten for almost a day and felt too weak to even go home. Upon learning this, Shalu hurried to the pantry, and brought food from her own lunch box and gave it to the old lady. Soon after, others from the pantry joined Shalu to share their lunch with Sona Devi. Delighted to see such warmth and love, Sona Devi ate heartily.

Her hunger having been satiated, she soon left the Polyclinic with words of warm blessings for those who had offered food and water to her.

About Delhi Slums

According to UN Habitat, a slum is a heavily populated urban informal settlement characterised by substandard housing and squalor. Statistics show that over 65 million¹ people who live in slums, migrate from the rural parts of India in search of a better standard of living, and are forced to settle in the urban slum system, due to the lack of resources and space elsewhere.

One of the greatest challenges in India today is coping with the rapid urbanisation. This rapid urbanization has thus increased the population of slum inhabitants, subsequently expanding the ill-equipped urban systems and informal housing (i.e. slums) in the last few decades; lacking proper access to basic services such as sanitation, hygiene, garbage disposal, potable water and healthcare. Over a third of India's slum dwellers live in unrecognised slums with an average household living of 4.7 family members¹.

Asha's Innovative Model of Urban Development is an endeavour towards addressing these problems prevailing in society today. With its primary focus on Healthcare, Education, Community Empowerment, Financial Inclusion and Environment, Asha's vision is to create long term sustainable transformation in the lives of Delhi's urban poor.

1. Census of India, 2011



Our History



Founded in 1988 by Dr Kiran Martin, a paediatrician, Asha has travelled the journey from providing primary healthcare to a single slum, to today serving the interests of 500,000 people in over 60 Delhi slums through our holistic approach to slum development. Our groundbreaking community development programmes in health, education, empowerment, environment improvement and financial inclusion have placed us firmly at the forefront of urban community transformation in the developing world and beyond.

Committed to empowering slum communities to work in partnership with both state and national governments, we have seen much progress through developing this relationship. Having already secured the provision of safe water supply and drainage systems for a number of slums, under the leadership of

Dr. Kiran the 1990's saw Asha collaborate with the Government of Delhi to pioneer a slum housing project which resulted in slum dwellers being awarded their own land titles and permanent brick housing. Through widely praised initiatives such as this, government policy has been greatly influenced to the benefit of hundreds of other slum residents, and Asha has enjoyed fruitful working relationships with various state government officials at all levels.

The 2000's brought with them the exciting endeavour of facilitating slum dwellers' access to banking services through our highly successful financial inclusion scheme for the urban poor. Devised in partnership with the Government of India's then Minister of Finance, the launch of this initiative heralded a previously unimaginable increase in slum communities' financial security.

The subsequent availability of education loans opened the doors of higher education to our slum children who were beginning to complete their schooling as a result of the interventions of the Asha Team. The first initiative of its kind, our Higher Education programme has to date seen over 1200 slum children gain membership at some of the country's most prestigious educational institutions. In the recent years, the programme has grown to provide mentorship and internship, and job placements to the students. From rummaging about in dirt as rag pickers to joining globally renowned organisations, the Asha students continue to reach greater heights each year.

In recent years Asha has welcomed prominent political figures, most notably the Hon. Mr. L.K. Advani, Former Deputy Prime Minister of India; Mr. P Chidambaram, India's Former Finance Minister, and the Former Minister for Education Mr. Kapil Sibal, to witness the transformation in their constituency's slums, for which they have since become strong advocates. Numerous overseas visitors have also accompanied Dr. Kiran on slum visits to Asha project areas and enjoyed a similar experience. These have included Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Ms. Julie Bishop MP, Canadian First Lady HE Sharon Johnston, Australian Envoy for Women and Girls Natasha Stott Despoja, British Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Mr Ed Davey, Governor of Victoria Hon Alex Chernov, Japanese Ambassador HE Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Member of New Zealand Parliament Mr Todd McClay as well as diplomats from Ireland, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Global support has been garnered for Asha through the establishment of formal and registered Friends of Asha societies in Great Britain, Ireland, the USA and in Australia through which supporters regularly fundraise and spread news of our work.

Dr. Kiran has lectured at some of the world's leading universities and presented the Asha model at the US House of Representatives and the British House of Commons. In 2002, the President of India presented Dr. Kiran with one of India's highest civilian awards, the Padma Shri. This year as Asha completes 27 years, its contribution to the field of urban development continues to gain recognition worldwide.

Director's Report



Dear Friends,

This has been another groundbreaking year for Asha. We continue to tackle all the issues that can keep slum dwellers trapped in poverty. In particular, our higher education programme goes from strength to strength, and we continue to ensure access to healthcare for the many communities in which we serve.

It is in the interactions with students that we can most easily see the progress that Asha has made over the past 27 years. These young people have grown up with Asha, they have benefited from access to decent healthcare, improved living environments, additional classes with Asha, and are now attending university, something their families could never have dreamt of before.

More than this, I see the fine moral standing of these young people. Our Asha student ambassadors are working in their communities, counselling younger neighbours and their parents on the benefits of education and giving additional classes to help students prepare for college, all whilst completing their own studies or starting their careers. This practical demonstration of student gratitude and compassion is inspiring.

We are not just content though to see students enter university, these talented students must now enter employment that fulfils their potential and enables them to lift themselves and their families out of poverty. The Internship Programme continues to build on its early successes. Asha's students are getting experience in prestigious workplaces across the Indian capital, and I am grateful to the many companies and high commissions and embassies who host Asha students each year.

This year has also seen the start of the Job Placement Programme that builds on the Internship Programme to support students in finding permanent work after graduation. We have worked with supporters to offer professional skills training to students, including writing CVs and interviewing. Asha has also worked directly with employers with large scale openings. It has been overwhelming to see the impact on these young graduates when they start work in their chosen professions.

Another highlight of the year has been my meeting with women in the communities. We have seen the continued change in the position of girls in our slum communities. Their daughters have been given the encouragement and support to continue their educations, take internships and find jobs at reputed organisations. Their mothers, in spite of living in such deep poverty, continue to inspire their children and catalyse changes in their lives, and those of entire communities.

As ever, the Friends of Asha around the world have continued to offer incredible support to our work.

This year I visited Australia. I had the honour of the Governor of Victoria, Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC hosting a lunch reception for me at Government House in Melbourne. In Northern Ireland, I had the privilege to meet Ministers at the Northern Ireland Assembly at Stormont. As well as volunteering, I have been grateful for the fundraising that has taken place across the Friends of Asha network. In the US and Australia, I was fortunate to join the fundraising and see first-hand the energy and dedication the Friends of Asha put into our work from so far away.


I have as ever enjoyed seeing old friends here in Delhi, and to meet new friends. Our associations with schools across the world have continued to increase and this year we welcomed Clifton-upon-Dunsmore and Wallace High for the first time to our communities.

All our donors, hope givers and volunteers, both in India and from overseas, alongside our supporting organisations, government bodies, Embassies and High Commissions, as well as the slum department have contributed to Asha's many achievements this year.

I would like to thank our largest donor, TEAR Fund, New Zealand for supporting Asha's programmes in a number of slum colonies. I also wish to thank the New Zealand Government and the New Zealand High Commission, New Delhi for their support of this project. Thanks also to Macquarie Group Foundation, McClay Foundation, Rope Charitable Trust and Australian High Commission's Direct Aid Programme for lending their support to various Asha initiatives.

I am deeply appreciative of my team at Asha, who have shown dedication and commitment to improving the lives of slum dwellers across Delhi.

As you read this report, I hope you are encouraged by the successes we have seen this year and the hope we have for the future in these communities.



Dr Kiran Martin
Founder and Director



Board member (from L to R) Rev Ivan Power, Dr Kiran, Dr Jolly Rohatgi, Ms Rani Kumar, Mr Anoop Bhatnagar and Mr Rohit Bhalla

Healthcare



An Asha Doctor examining a patient at the Polyclinic.

There is nothing more important than one's good health – it is the principal capital asset of an individual.

A lack of basic amenities, unhygienic surroundings, and improper nutrition make the urban poor vulnerable to health hazards. An average of 89 per cent of slum residents in Delhi do not have access to any government healthcare centre within slum area¹. Adding to this, fear, ignorance and lack of financial means further prevent them from seeking even basic healthcare or practicing preventive measures to improve their health standards.

For the past 27 years, Asha's Healthcare Programme has been addressing these issues. The Healthcare Programme not only provides services but also empowers slum dwellers to act as change agents in their communities.

Asha identifies and trains women from the slum communities as Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), who become Asha's first line of defence against common ailments. The CHVs identify patients from their communities and encourage them to visit the local Asha centre for appropriate treatment. They further strengthen the healthcare programme by holding community meetings and workshops to educate slum residents about basic hygiene and disease prevention practices. The CHVs' work is reinforced by the presence of Asha's Lane Volunteers, a 25-household monitoring system that comprises volunteers from each lane in the community who identify those in need and report them to the CHVs.

The second tier of the healthcare model comprises Asha's slum-based primary healthcare centres. Staffed with part-time doctors and full-time nurses, these centres are equipped to provide primary healthcare services and run basic medical investigations. Mobile clinics enable slums without a health centre to receive an equally high level of care. Asha's Polyclinic and Diagnostic Centre at Asha's Headquarters enhances the work of the clinics through X-ray, ultrasound and laboratory services at highly subsidised rates.

The final tier includes referrals to Government hospitals in cases where the patient requires highly specialised consultation and diagnosis. The CHVs, Asha health centre team and the doctor at the Polyclinic act as conduits for referrals for appropriate treatment.

The health indicators for the current year demonstrate the progress made. The proportion of pregnant women who had at least 3 antenatal checks has remained at 100% compared with 37% across India². In the past one year, there have been over 18,000 clinic visits at Asha's slum-based health centres.

1. Planning Commission of India, 2011

2. Antenatal Care in Developing Countries - Promises, achievements and missed opportunities
An analysis of trends, levels and differentials, 1990-2001 | UNICEF and WHO

Success of Asha's Maternal Health Programme

	India(%) [*]	Asha Slums(%) [^]
Institutional Births	40.8	76
Births assisted by Trained Birth attendant/other health personnel	48.8	24
Births assisted by Untrained Birth attendant/Quacks	10.4	0

^{*} National Family Health Survey, 2005-2006 | [^] Statistical Tool used – median



Asha's health team conducts regular check ups and vaccinations for the mother and the baby.

Asha's Child Health Programme

Healthcare	India(%)	Asha Slums(%) [^]
Children born with Low Birth Weight	30'	12
Children Breastfed within 6 hours of delivery	23*	100
Children who received BCG vaccine	78.1*	100
Children who received OPV and DPT vaccine	–	98
Children who received Vitamin A Supplements	24.96*	99

^{*} State of World Children UNICEF 2006 | ^{*} National Family Health Survey, 2005-2006

[^] Statistical Tool used – median



Asha's Child Health Programme ensures holistic development of the children.

Outcomes of Asha's Reproductive Health Programme

	India(%) [*]	Asha Slums(%) [^]
Total Permanent Methods (Vasectomy and Tubectomy)	36.9	21
Intra Uterine Devices (IUDs)	5	1.8
Oral Pills	3.6	4
Male Condoms	5.5	28
Total Contraceptive usage	50.1	54.8

^{*} FAMILY PLANNING WORLDWIDE 2013 DATA SHEET, Population Reference Bureau, Washington DC

[^] Statistical Tool used – median



Women across Asha slums are regularly counselled about good reproductive health practices.



Rekha and her child with a Community Health Volunteer at the Asha centre.

“It is with the constant guidance and help of the Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) that my child and I are healthy today,” shares Rekha, a resident of Seelampur slum community.

Throughout Rekha's pregnancy, she consulted the Asha trained CHVs. Due to some complications in her pregnancy, they advised her to register with the specialised government hospital doctors at the time of delivery. Towards the end of her last trimester, Rekha complained of severe labour pains. As it was late at night, the CHVs were called upon. On examining Rekha they diagnosed that her water-bag had burst and there were further complications.

The CHVs advised that Rekha should immediately be taken to the government hospital nearby. At first the family was reluctant, but when the CHVs explained the precariousness of Rekha's health and the benefits of a skilled doctor, the family finally agreed.

During the time it took to convince the family, Rekha's condition further deteriorated. Unable to find any other mode of transport, Rekha was taken to the hospital in a cart. Rekha was immediately taken to the Emergency ward and was operated upon that same night.

Thanks to the prompt action of the CHVs, Rekha had a safe delivery and was blessed with a healthy baby girl.



Young Gufran with Asha CHV at his house.

Today, three year old Gufran from Zakhira slum community is a healthy and active child – but this was not the case a few months ago.

When Gufran's father was diagnosed with Tuberculosis (TB) last year, he neglected his health and took the DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short-course) dosage irregularly. Consequently Gufran's older sister also caught the infection. When the Asha team learnt about the family's condition, they immediately advised them to visit the DOTS centre and start with the treatment. With Asha's regular counseling and follow up, the health of both father and daughter showed gradual improvement.

During this time, Gufran started losing weight and became weak day-by-day. On a regular visit to the family, Asha's Community Health Volunteer (CHV) noticed the decline in Gufran's health and advised his mother to seek aid at the Asha Centre without delay.

“When Asha's CHV asked me to get Gufran's test done, I thought it is the usual fever and weight loss. I never thought he would also be detected with TB. Thankfully he was diagnosed at such an early stage and the treatment began instantly,” shared Gufran's mother.

Today, Gufran and the entire family have fully recovered.

Volunteer Doctors at Asha

Asha was pleased to welcome volunteer doctors to our slum based clinics as well as at the Asha Polyclinic. This was a wonderful opportunity for slum residents to avail themselves of specialist healthcare services. The doctors' dedication, care and concern for the patients were amazing. We are truly grateful for their time and efforts as they worked tirelessly to make lives better for those living in the slums.



Dr Deirdre Shawe, a Rheumatologist from the UK, volunteered with Asha during March. She held clinics at our slum based centres as well as at the polyclinic.



Dr Elaine Smith, a Rheumatologist, and Dr Kate Milne, a General Practitioner (GP), from the UK volunteered for a week.



Howard and Sonia Hinson, midwives from Bendigo Health, Australia, spent three weeks assisting and supporting Asha's healthcare team.



Dr Dick Hogben, a GP from the UK, volunteered at Asha for two weeks. Having visited Asha in previous years, he has been closely attached to the work.



Dr Asha Sharma, a retired GP from the UK volunteered for two weeks. She held clinics at Asha slums and conducted workshops for the Asha team.



Dr Steve Gregson and his wife Sarah volunteered with Asha for two weeks. Sarah runs a fair-trade organisation KangaWrap that has been supporting Asha's Maternal and Newborn Health Programme for many years.

Community Empowerment



Dr Kiran with Women's Association members of Ekta Vihar slum colony.

Empowerment enables the true potential of every individual to be unleashed for the benefit of communities and our world.

'Empowerment' refers to the process by which people gain control over the factors and decisions that shape their lives. It is the process by which they increase their assets and attributes, and build capacities to gain access, partners, networks and/or a voice, in order to gain control (WHO).

Asha's Community Empowerment Programme aims to enable women and children to come together and take charge of their lives. This positive shift in attitude underlies the action that leads to transformations across slum communities.

Asha's Women's Associations are dynamic groups of women who create awareness in their communities about varied issues. They voice the problems from within the communities and put them across to local leaders, so as to seek solutions.

The National Family Health Survey of 2005-06 highlighted the various aspects of Women's Empowerment. It quoted that only 37% participated in the decision-making related to themselves and their family. Among both married and unmarried women, 19% were not permitted to go to the market by themselves; 72% were allowed to go alone to a health facility, but only 37% were able freely to travel alone outside their own community.

At Asha, though often illiterate yet aware of their rights, the women are quick to share their new knowledge with the community. In 2014-15, the women's groups across all Asha communities held over 270 meetings with government officials and representatives. Over the years, such meetings have allowed them to form linkages with police, local leaders and government officials that have resulted in the improvement of health, sanitation and education facilities in the slum communities.

Asha's Children's Associations constitute children within the age group of 6-14 years. These groups of diligent children gain confidence at a very early stage in life and are hence able to understand the value of leadership and team spirit. This year, Asha's children organised 800 meetings, including meetings with the community, local leaders and government officials to improve the infrastructure and environment in their areas.

The work in Asha communities has shown greater impact in past years because of the active initiatives taken by these Women's and Children's Associations. These skilled and empowered community volunteers become the eyes and ears of their neighbourhoods, taking accountability for people's welfare and protecting their rights. Thanks to these Women and Children's Associations, large numbers of people across Delhi slums have benefited from affordable services such as healthcare, financial inclusion, better education, and a safer environment.



The destroyed remains of Vivekanand slum colony after the massive fire.



Basic requirements being offered to the victims, by the Asha team.

Tragedy struck Vivekanand slum colony in South Delhi as a massive fire broke out on June 5, 2014. Almost 70 houses were burnt to ashes, leaving hundreds of people homeless. Though there was no loss of lives, the affected families, especially the women who found out about the fire after returning from work, were seen crying hysterically.

As soon as the Women's Associations from nearby communities came to know about the incident, they organised a donation drive to seek help for the affected families. Displaying true compassion, the residents came forward and generously donated blankets, bed sheets, utensils and other essential commodities.

"When we got to know about the fire, some of our community members visited the affected area. The condition was so bad that we instantly decided to help the affected members recover from this heavy loss," said a member of the Women's Association.



Children Association members outside Asha's Jeevan Nagar centre.

On a chilly December afternoon, while returning home from school, Asha's Children Association members noticed a young girl wandering in Indira Gandhi camp of Jeevan Nagar slum community. She was accompanied by an unruly boy, and the children sensed something strange.

Upon enquiry, the girl explained that she belonged to a very poor family and worked at someone's home as a domestic help. Unable to cope with the work, she had run away without informing anyone.

The children immediately brought her to the Asha centre. Considering the sensitivity of the situation, the Asha team quickly contacted concerned authorities and informed them about the child. Meanwhile, the children comforted the girl by providing her with warm clothes. They also bought her food from the Children's Association's monthly contributions.

Soon, the authorities arrived and the Asha team handed over the child to them to be restored to her family. The officials congratulated the children on their alertness and presence of mind for taking prompt action.

Asha's team leader at Jeevan Nagar said, "Had the children not noticed the girl, she would have been forced into bad company leading to a very scary future. These children have set a great example for all of us."

Education



Students studying at the Asha centre.

*Dignity comes
not from control,
but from
understanding
that you are and
taking your
rightful place in
the world.*

Asha has always recognised the life-changing role of education, which creates opportunities for better jobs, leading to income for improved nutrition, healthcare and housing, and finally breaking the cycle of poverty. Asha's interventions over the past 27 years have ensured that opportunities for education at each level, i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary are available to the students living in slum communities across Delhi.

The Asha team ensures that each child is a part of the formal education system and has access to adequate study material. As a result, primary school attendance and completion in Asha communities continues to be at 100% this year as well. Asha also offers Computer and English literacy classes to school-going children in order to bring them at par with their financially better-off counterparts.

Poverty and pressure from society often force students to drop out of school and take up small jobs to supplement the family income. As an answer to this, Asha launched its pioneering Higher Education Programme in 2008 to provide opportunities for tertiary education to students from the slums.

This programme that started with just 58 students has as of this year seen over 1200 students from the slums gaining admission to Delhi University and other professional courses. At higher education level, only 45% of female are enrolled in under graduate and post graduate courses in India whereas, in Asha communities the percentage of female enrolment continues to be at 51% this year as well. This was achieved by supporting and mentoring the students, working intensively with their parents, at times overturning strong family opposition.

The Asha Higher Education Programme provides more than just college education: it also offers mentorship, internship, and most recently job placement opportunities to the students.

1. All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2010-11

Asha Internship Programme



Company representatives and Asha students at launch of Asha's Internship Programme for 2014 hosted at the New Zealand High Commission.

The Asha Internship Programme offers university students with an opportunity to gain professional experience during their summer break. Since 2012, the programme has provided internships to 140 students in diplomatic missions and corporates across Delhi. Impressed by the students' performance, many of the employers have extended the internship durations while others have offered jobs to the interns.

To help the students gear up to face the country's competitive job market, the Asha Mentorship Programme matches the students with professionals in Delhi. Launched in 2012, the programme has seen an amazing response from mentors who have volunteered to support and guide students.

Taking the programme to the next level, this year Asha launched its Job Match Programme which aims to place students in jobs relevant to their qualifications. Within just a few months, the Job Match programme has placed 14 students in well-paying jobs at organisations like VFS, The Lodhi, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and PepsiCo.



Babita outside her house at Dr Ambedkar slum colony.



Babita at her workplace - International Rice Research Institute.

Babita from Dr Ambedkar slum colony lost her father at a very young age. She grew up watching her mother Lakshmi struggle hard to make ends meet. It was during those early days that Babita vowed to study and help her mother recuperate from this ordeal.

Babita has been associated with Asha for the past 12 years. Having been actively involved with Asha programmes, Babita grew up into a confident and ambitious girl, and is now one of the most promising Asha Student Ambassadors.

Babita graduated from Delhi University in 2013. As a part of Asha's first group of students under the internship programme, Babita was placed as an intern at the Australian High Commission in 2012, and mining giant Rio Tinto in 2013. Babita threw herself into the jobs with great enthusiasm and used these opportunities to learn new skills. "I can't explain to you in words how many things I learnt at that time. I learnt how to dress for work, how to talk, how to answer telephones, time management and more. At first I was very nervous, but I became more confident as my work was appreciated by my bosses," recalls Babita.

While Babita was job-hunting after her graduation, another internship at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) came her way. The IRRI team loved her work. Soon after completion of Babita's designated four weeks, they extended her internship contract for three months which was renewed over and over again. And after a year's hard work as an intern, Babita was absorbed in the Human Resource department at IRRI.

"Once I was a very shy girl who was afraid to talk to strangers and today I am working in such a reputed company. I have indeed come a long way," she beams with pride.



Shubham outside his house in Kusumpur Pahadi slum colony.



Shubham receiving the 'Year 12 Topper Award' from Governor of Victoria, Alex Chernov.

Asha's high school topper 2014, Shubham Kumar is a wonderful example of dedication and diligence. Fighting all odds, Shubham completed high school with flying colours.

Shubham scored an aggregate of 94% in his high school examination. With an impressive 92% in English, 95% in Economics, 95% in Mathematics and 95% in Accountancy, he has made all of us at Asha proud.

About 10 years ago, his father left the family. As a result of this his older brother, who was then at high school, left his studies and set up a tea shop to support the family. During high school, Shubham also worked at the shop to help his brother. All this only motivated him to study with greater enthusiasm to earn a life of dignity for his family one day. He would study at night, when his family was asleep, and made the best use of the books and other resources Asha provided.

Presently Shubham is pursuing a Bachelor's in Commerce from Kirori Mal College, Delhi University. Suddenly a star in the community, Shubham exudes confidence as he talks about becoming a Chartered Accountant one day. When asked about his dream in life Shubham says, "I now have the courage to fight for a brighter place in the world and it has been possible because of the direction that Asha has given to my life."



Ashwini Gupta with Asha students at one of their mentorship meetings.

"Ashwini Sir is a true mentor, a true guru (teacher). He has guided us irrespective of the day, the time, or the place," shared Simmi, an Asha student, while interacting with Asha team at Peeragarhi slum colony.

In 2014, Ashwini Gupta, Bank Manager at the State Bank of India, heard about the Asha Mentorship Programme and immediately agreed to join Asha in this unique initiative. Ashwini offered to mentor a large group of students, so he was introduced to 15 Asha students from Peeragarhi slum colony. At the end of the first meeting Ashwini admitted to being extremely moved after learning about the challenges each of them faced in their studies and professional growth.

Inspired by the Asha students, Ashwini took up the task of taking 15 more mentees under his tutelage. While Asha was initially hesitant to place such a large number of students with one mentor, the results have been fantastic and the students absolutely love him. Over the past few months Ashwini has been visiting them every week. He holds group discussions on current affairs with the students, helps them apply for jobs, trains them for interviews, and often puts them in touch with his network for specific guidance. He recently began one-on-one discussions with each student after the group sessions to coach them individually.

"One day we told Ashwini Sir about our internship interviews the next day. Without giving a second thought, he immediately fixed a meeting with us at 7 am the next day to help us prepare for the interview. Always punctual, Sir was waiting for us exactly at 7 am with reading material and last minute tips," shared Tarun. "Of course, all of us got selected for the internships of our interest," he adds.

Student Ambassador Programme

One of the most recent Asha initiatives in the education arena is the Asha Student Ambassador Programme. Launched in December 2013, the programme has seen over 100 enthusiastic Student Ambassadors working tirelessly across Asha communities. These students, who have received Asha support in the past, are motivated to 'pay it forward' and guide younger students in the same manner. Regular workshops and interactions help these students to become effective peer leaders. With more and more high school students looking to them for advice and guidance, the Ambassadors are now role models across Asha communities.



Student Ambassadors meeting with Dr Kiran.



Community visits and record keeping.



Developing extra-curricular skills.



Tutoring young students from their community.



Team building exercises.



Counseling high school students and college aspirants.

Financial Inclusion



Former Indian Finance Minister Mr P Chidambaram presenting a loan cheque to a borrower.

Social justice requires equal distribution of the opportunities and benefits of development. It insists on the rights of all people to reach their individual potential

Financial inclusion is not an end in itself, but rather a process. It can be described as provision of affordable financial services, access to payments and remittance facilities, savings and loans by the formal financial system to the segment of society that was previously excluded.

The Global Findex shows 34% of the world's poor do not have a bank account, not only because of poverty, but also due to costs, travel distance and paper work involved. 59% of adults in developing economies and 77% of adults earning less than \$2 a day do not have an account at a financial institution. Absence of a bank account means there is little incentive to save, and this intensifies the invisibility of slum dwellers.

Asha's Financial Inclusion Programme aims to provide equitable opportunities to every community member to avail themselves of formal financial facilities for a better income and better life.

In collaboration with the Indian Ministry of Finance, Asha launched its Financial Inclusion Programme in 2008 to address the problems faced by the slum residents in Delhi. This was an outcome of the then Finance Minister of India, Mr P Chidambaram's visit to an Asha community. Due to Asha's intervention, banks that were initially hesitant to extend their services to slum dwellers began welcoming them with open arms.

Keeping in view low incomes in the slums, the facility to open zero-balance bank accounts was one of the most important services offered by this scheme. Now-a-days, most members of Asha communities have savings accounts, as well as access to business and education loans.

The impact of having a savings account on one's self-esteem is powerful. The bank passbook is a proof of identity that is critically important for obtaining voter forms, and other benefits. Slum dwellers also take pride in seeing their savings grow. To be able to save in this way is an option they previously lacked.

The business loans reinforce Asha's efforts in unprecedented ways. Due to lack of sufficient finances, individuals from the communities seek loans at low interest rates and pay them back gradually. Asha team members keep a record of the borrowers and act as a communication channel between them and the banks.

A large number of Asha students have also benefited from the loan scheme. These loans prove to be a great opportunity for them to pursue their education without being a burden on their families. Once they are able to secure a job, they start to repay the loan.



Monika at her house in Peeragarhi slum colony.



Monika at her workplace.

When Monika completed her schooling in 2009, her only aim then was to seek a job and support her family. With great difficulty, the Asha team convinced her to apply for a General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) course which she qualified for with very good marks. But her family was not supportive of this decision.

The Asha team counseled them about the provision of education loans under Asha's Financial Inclusion Programme that could allow Monika to pursue the course. They explained how this two year course would provide Monika with great work opportunities, and an income that would allow her to repay her loan and support the family simultaneously.

With the Asha team's incessant visits and efforts at convincing the family, they finally allowed her to go ahead.

Today, Monika has completed her General Nursing and Midwifery course and has also acquired a job in a reputed private hospital in Delhi. She is repaying the loan and is also able to contribute to the family's finances. "Once I am able to repay the entire loan amount, I would like to pursue further studies and seek a Ph.D. degree as well; even if it involves taking another loan," shares Monika.



Shabnam and her husband with their vegetable cart.

Shabnam from Seelampur slum colony took a business loan in 2008 when Asha had just launched its Financial Inclusion Programme for slum residents. A vegetable vendor by profession, Shabnam took a loan to expand her business which brought in a lot of profit for her and her family.

To Shabnam, luxuries did not mean much. She invested her savings in her children and ensured that they continued with their studies. Eventually, one of them got married and another joined Asha's Higher Education Programme.

Today, her son Jubair is one of the most active Asha student Ambassadors and is working in a deluxe 7-star hotel in Delhi. "Had I not taken the loan through Asha's Financial Inclusion Programme, my children would have had to quit their studies at a very early stage," shares Shabnam. Having broken the shackles of poverty, Shabnam and Jubair are an inspiration to the entire community.

"My son's job in such a renowned hotel has brought new hopes for us. We can now dream of relocating from the slum one day," she adds.

Environment



The condition of Hanuman Camp slum colony.

*Justice means
challenging
oppressive social
structures and
responding to
injustice through
non-violence and
active
peacemaking.*

UN Habitat defines a slum household as a group of individuals living under the same roof in an urban area who lack one or more of the following: 1. Durable housing of a permanent nature that protects against extreme climate conditions. 2. Sufficient living space which means not more than three people sharing the same room. 3. Easy access to safe water in sufficient amounts at an affordable price. 4. Access to adequate sanitation in the form of a private or public toilet shared by a reasonable number of people. 5. Security of tenure that prevents forced evictions.

Asha's work is based in the slums of Delhi which fit the description above of a typical slum. These slums have numerous environmental problems such as houses that leak when it rains and provide few barriers to heat or cold; muddy lanes and poor drainage; and scavenging animals sharing space with humans. Basic amenities like access to clean and safe water and toilets, clean and paved streets with street lighting, covered drainage, solid waste disposal sites, and police check posts are practically non-existent.

Asha communities showcase an amazing example of an alternative to the environment in which most urban poor live. This year, 118 water outlet units have been installed across Asha slums that include taps, tube wells, and hand pumps. Unblocked drains, legal electricity meters in every home, functional public toilet complexes, clean paved streets, garbage bins and garbage disposal vehicles are some of the other improvements that have been taking place as a result of empowerment of the community and enhanced awareness levels.

The Women and Children's Associations are trained to approach government officials, police and sanitary officers, Municipal Councillors, Members of State Legislatures and Members of Parliament to improve their environment. Regular meetings are organised with these government officials, during which persistent problems from the community are discussed to seek an appropriate solution. Also, the Women and Children's Associations conducted nearly 300 awareness drives in their respective communities in order to urge the residents to take care of their own surroundings.

Though the living conditions in the 60 Asha communities have improved significantly over the past 27 years, there is still a long way to go. As a long term solution, Asha is empowering the slum communities to understand and initiate appropriate cleanliness and hygiene practices, and to work together to gain access to improved surroundings.



Women's Association members interacting with MLA, after the Independence Day celebration.



The newly developed play ground at Kalkaji.

In August 2014, the Children's and Women's Associations in Kalkaji slum colony collectively decided to invite their recently elected MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly), Mr Chandra Prakash as a chief guest at their Independence Day celebrations.

On Independence Day, after the MLA's speech and other programs, a meeting was organised so that the residents of Kalkaji slum community could interact with the MLA. Sharing the needs of the community, they spoke about a lack of open space for children to play. They explained how, owing to an absence of any such facility, the kids were forced to play on the sides of nearby roads risking their own safety and that of other commuters as well. They requested him to develop a park in the slum colony.

Learning about their problems, Mr Prakash promised everyone that soon a beautiful park, complete with walking area, swings and enough open space, would be developed. Without much delay, he got the project sanctioned and the work began. As a result of this, the park was ready in a few months' time.

The children are so happy with their playground and the parents feel much relieved saying, 'Finally we have a place where our children can play safely'.



Women's Association members and Asha team at the road construction site.

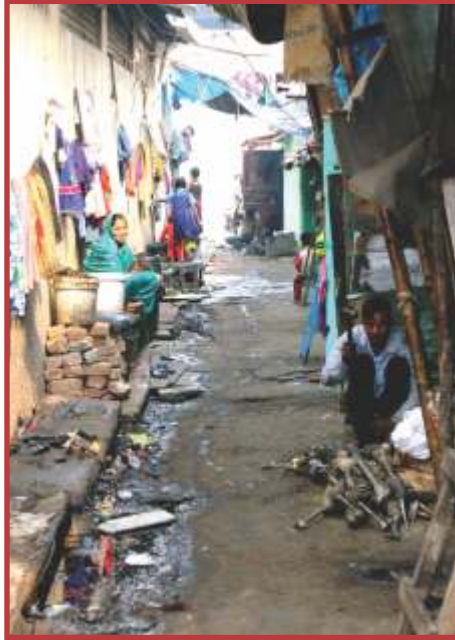
Kusumpur *Pahadi*, an Asha slum colony, sits in the heart of Delhi. Like other slum colonies, this area has narrow lanes with roads that are rapidly deteriorating. The poor state of the roads has made it difficult for the residents to commute.

Kusumpur also suffers from water shortage, and the community relies on government-issued water tankers for the regular supply. However, these are unable to deliver water to some parts of the slum due to the terrible condition of the roads. "The residents have to walk through a long stretch to reach the water tankers, and then carry water all the way back," recounts Pushpa, Asha Team Leader at Kusumpur.

After regular discussions during Women's Association meetings it was decided to take this issue to their local MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly) and request his help. The MLA received the women with much respect and promised his support and prompt action. Early March, the construction began.

The residents are now pleased with the newly constructed road and are grateful to the Women's Association for making this happen.

Highlights of Environmental Improvements



From dirty lanes to clean and well maintained pathways.



Installation of sufficient number of water outlets for better availability of water.



Toilets constructed with improved sanitation facilities across Asha slums.



From children rummaging in the garbage to raising awareness about health and hygiene.



From slums to proper housing with land tenure.



To avoid illegal usage, electricity meters have been installed in Asha slum colonies.

Friends of Asha

The Asha family is a global one: supporters around the world have been drawn to the Asha values and been inspired by visiting the Asha communities in Delhi.

In the United Kingdom, Ireland, United States of America and Australia, Asha supporters have set up Friends of Asha organisations to support Asha's work from their areas. These independently registered bodies are run on a completely voluntary basis, and the support they extend is phenomenal.

As well as helping the Asha donors and hope givers make tax efficient donations, the Friends of Asha organisations also act as a wonderful conduits for resources like information updates, publicity material, statistics and more to be shared between Asha and its supporters at large. They offer invaluable support to volunteers and teams planning to visit Asha to help them prepare for their time in the slums. Over the years, the Friends of Asha organisations have spread awareness about the work of Asha to large numbers of people, expanding the supporter base in their respective regions.

This year, Asha brought together its entire supporter base in Delhi and launched the Friends of Asha Delhi chapter on May 7, 2014 at an event attended by former Indian Finance Minister, Mr P Chidambaram and Australian High Commissioner HE Patrick Suckling at the Australian High Commission.

Getting in Touch with Friends of Asha

Below are the details for Friends of Asha in Great Britain, Ireland, the USA and Australia.



Friends of Asha (GB)

Mr Phil Leighton, Co-ordinator, Friends of Asha (GB)

"Woodlands", 34 Knoll Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4QU, UK

Email: foasha.leighton@tiscali.co.uk | Web: www.justgiving.com/friendsofasha

Charity Registration No. 1085071



Friends of Asha Ireland (For Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland)

Mrs Daphne Wright, Friends of Asha (Ireland)

3 Altona Manor, Holywood, Co Down, N Ireland BT18 9BX, UK.

Email: ashaireland@icloud.com | Charity Registration No. XR 37459



ASHA (USA)

Mrs Louanne Hempton, American Society for Health for All (ASHA)

96 Sweetwater Ave #6, Bedford, MA 01730, USA.

Email: lhempston@hotmail.com | ASHA (USA) is a 501 (C) 3 registered charity, EIN #01057632



Australian Friends of Asha for Slums Limited

Mr Richard Leder, Australian Friends of Asha for Slums.

Australia India Institute, The University of Melbourne, 4th Floor, Arts West Building, Parkville VIC3010, Australia.

Email: info@australianfriendsofashaslums.org.au | Web: www.australianfriendsofashaslums.org.au

Charity Registration Number ACN 161 085 650

Friends of Asha (Delhi)

Deputy High Commissioner of Australia, Mr Bernard Philip and Dr Kiran Martin, Founder and Director, Asha Society co-hosted an evening reception at Bernard's residence on May 1, 2014. The event was organised to introduce new friends to Asha's wonderful work and initiate a Friends of Asha group in Delhi.

"Internationally, there are multiple Friends of Asha- in the US, Great Britain, Ireland and the most recent in Australia. We hope, by bringing friends together we can raise efforts to support Delhi's slum dwellers to a whole new level," said Bernard who also agreed to chair the group.



Mr Bernard Philip welcoming the guests.



Dr Kiran talking about the Friends of Asha.



Asha Student Ambassadors Akhlaq narrating his story of struggle, hope and success during their journey with Asha.



Ms Sonya McGuinness, Corporate Services Manager of International Rice Research Institute speaking about her experiences with Asha intern Babita who is now employed there.



Rio Tinto has provided internships to Asha students for three years in a row. Inspired by Asha's Higher Education Programme, Rio Tinto employees generously decided to forego their Diwali gifts from the company and instead donated funds to the programme.



The British High Commission's Charity Fund organised the British Charity Ball with Asha as one of the charities supported through the event. They also invited some of the Asha's Children's Association members to attend a magic show.

Friends of Asha (Ireland)



Hollywood Parish church, Northern Ireland hosted a breakfast to raise awareness and funds for Asha in the month of May. A number of presentations were made during the course of the morning which demonstrated not only the extreme poverty of the slum dwellers but also the personal sacrifice made by Dr Kiran in dedicating her life to work among the poor of Delhi.



Dr Kiran was received by a team of volunteers from Ballymena led by Friends of Asha Chairman, Gareth Williams. Seen here doing a team briefing in advance of their visit to Asha. Dr Kiran addressed the gathering and warmly welcomed them to Asha. The team worked at Anna Nagar, Savda and Mayapuri slum colonies.



Dr Kiran with the board members of McClay Foundation, who have been supporting Asha for the past many years, during her trip to Northern Ireland in September 2014.



Dr Kiran with Ronnie McKee, CEO of TBF and KL Thompson Trust in Garvagh. The trust has been supporting Asha for the past many years, and has taken great interest in Asha's Higher Education Programme.



Friends of Asha, Northern Ireland organised a murder mystery play – 'Murder on the Titanic'. The play was set in 1912, aboard the ill-fated ocean liner, RMS Titanic on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York. Hosted by Hollywood Parish Church, the event saw a huge turn-out and raised vital funds for Asha. [Picture: A scene from "Murder on the Titanic"]



Dr Kiran had the privilege to call on Junior Ministers at the Northern Ireland Assembly in Stormont. (L-R) Junior Minister Jonathan Bell, Dr Kiran, and Junior Minister McCann at Stormont Assembly, Northern Ireland.

Friends of Asha (Great Britain)



The 'East Meets West' concert was organised by dynamic Asha supporter Amanda Clegg at Twickenham, UK. The first half, 'East' featured Dr Kiran singing Lata Mangeshkar classic songs from the 60's and 70's. The second half, 'West' featured Jonathan Clegg and Enloc Wu playing classical piano duets, with pieces by Bach, Fauré and Dvorák. The audience really appreciated the contrast in styles and cultures represented.



Associate Director, Freddy Martin met with a group of young people called 'The Legacy' for breakfast. After hearing about Asha's Higher Education programme the group was highly inspired, and they are now planning to visit Asha in the coming year.



Freddy shared the work of Asha at a Curry Night event in Kidwelly kindly hosted by Mark and Becky Jennings. Similar Curry Nights were hosted by Vic and Una Brown, Asha Ambassadors in Llanelli, for others to learn more about Asha.



Clifton Upon Dunsmore School at Rugby held a fun packed 'Run for Asha 2014'. Children were sponsored to run in mile laps, with every child from reception up to year 6 running.

Australian Friends of Asha



Dr Kiran had the pleasure of meeting the Australian Foreign Minister, Ms Julie Bishop at the Australian Parliament. Ms Bishop fondly recalled her visit to Asha last year and expressed her admiration for Asha's achievements.



Governor of Victoria, Hon Alex Chernov AC QC hosted a lunch reception in honour of Dr Kiran at Government House in Melbourne. Commenting on the success of the Asha Model, Hon Governor remarked that he was very proud of the engagement between Australia and India that is brought about by the work of Asha.



Australian Friends of Asha organised the first official fund raising dinner for Asha in Australia at Yering Station winery in the Yarra Valley. The event was attended by a number of old and new Asha supporters, which included Ms Anne Rathbone, owner of Yering Station Winery; Mr Robert Johanson, Chairman Bendigo Bank and Mr Harish Rao of AFOA.



Dr Kiran with Cr. Barry Lyons, Mayor Bendigo, along with other Councillors and Mr Robert Johanson at a lunch reception in Bendigo.



The 2015 HealthBank Cricket Challenge took place in Bendigo, Australia on 20 February. This is the second friendly cricket match organised by Bendigo Bank and Bendigo Health to raise funds for Asha. The proceeds from HealthBank Cricket challenge in 2014 enabled two trained midwives from Bendigo Health to visit Asha and volunteer at our Maternal Healthcare Programme.



Dr Kiran was warmly welcomed at Bendigo Bank and Bendigo Health during her visit to Bendigo in September 2014. Earlier in 2014, both organisations conducted 'Bendigo HealthBank Cricket Challenge' to raise funds for Asha. They also presented her with a cheque from the proceeds of the event.

ASHA (USA)



Supporters in California held the 14th annual Asha Fundraiser at the beautiful Hall Winery in Napa Valley. Organised with a view to spread awareness and raise funds for the work of Asha, the event was attended by long time supporters of Asha along with many new friends. Congressman Mike Thompson, who was unable to attend the event, delivered an enthusiastic and heart-warming message via video.

Asha would like to extend its sincere thanks to Lana Stanley, Jim and Sandy Jones, Kailash and Gisela Chaudhary, Rohit Patel, Craig and Kathryn Hall and Congressman Mike Thompson and Mrs Janet Thompson for their time and efforts for organising this event.

[In Picture: (Left) The guests at Hall Winery. (Right) Dr Kiran with Asha ambassadors Kailash Chaudhary and Rohit Patel]



During her trip to the USA in October 2014, Dr Kiran was invited to address Microsoft employees in Seattle.



Dr Kiran also addressed the annual gathering of TIE Seattle, a not-for-profit global network of entrepreneurs and professionals.



Dr Kiran at an event hosted by Asha Ambassadors Prabita and Paul Pottorff at their home in Seattle.



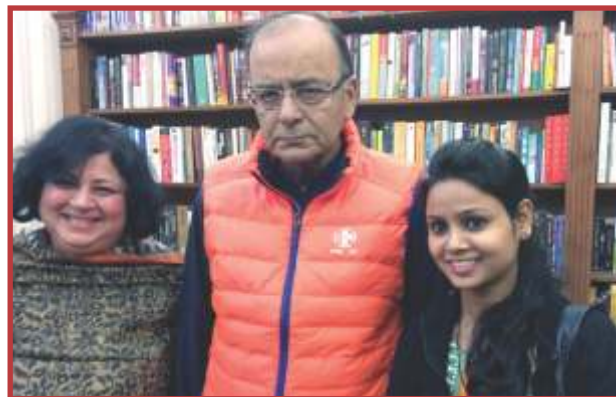
KK Bhardwaj and his wife Rajshree who were the chief coordinators of Dr Kiran's trip to Seattle also hosted an evening of music where Dr Kiran performed old songs of Lata Mangeskar. [In Picture: KK Bhardwaj (extreme right) and Rajshree (centre - in white) with other attendees at the musical evening]

Association with Dignitaries Worldwide

Asha has been fortunate to receive the support of people at top of political parties, heads of diplomatic missions, and senior government officials from within India and abroad. This year, Asha had the joy of welcoming many of them to its project areas to witness first-hand the transformation happening in the lives of the slum dwellers. Moved by what they saw, they have been extremely gracious in lending their support to various Asha initiatives. Their presence, support and warm words of encouragement for the communities greatly impact the lives of the slum dwellers, giving them a renewed sense of self-esteem.



Dr Kiran, accompanied by senior Asha team member Sweeta and University students from Asha slum communities called upon veteran Indian political leader Mr L K Advani. Mr Advani congratulated the students and gave his blessings to them while the students shared testimonies of their journey with Asha.



Dr Kiran and Asha Student Ambassador Usha were honoured to meet the Finance Minister of India, Mr Arun Jaitley. Dr Kiran provided him with a glimpse of Asha's work, while Usha explained her background and her achievements, and said that she represented thousands of Asha students with similar backgrounds as she stood before him.



Dr Kiran was honoured to be invited by Indian External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj. Smt. Swaraj was full of appreciation for the Asha Model and congratulated Dr Kiran on its success. "All these remarkable changes that you are seeing today [in the Asha communities] are the fruits of your tireless efforts and dedication over all these years," she commented.



The British High Commissioner, HE Sir James Bevan KCMG, invited Asha's volunteer teams from the United Kingdom for high tea at his residence. He appreciated the teams' work with Asha that helps to strengthen the ties between the two countries.



In September 2014, New Zealand High Commissioner, HE Grahame Morton, visited the Asha community in Dr Ambedkar slum colony. The High Commissioner interacted with the Women's Association and University students at Dr Ambedkar slum colony.



The Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, Ms Natasha Stott Despoja visited Asha's Dr Ambedkar slum colony. Ms Despoja had a hearty interaction with the members of the Children's Association, Women's Association and Asha's University students.



Asha bid farewell to Canadian High Commissioner HE Stewart Beck and his lovely wife and Asha ambassador, Brenda Beck. Mr Beck has been a strong supporter of Asha's Higher Education and Internship Programmes and Mrs Beck has been instrumental in mentoring some of our students during their tenure.



Deputy High Commissioner of Singapore, Mr Jonathan Tow hosted a dinner reception for students from the Asha slum colonies at the Singapore High Commission. The evening started with Mr Tow giving an overview of Singapore followed by Asha's team and beneficiaries addressing the gathering.



The Irish Ambassador HE Feilim McLaughlin hosted a dinner reception for Asha's volunteer teams from Wallace High School, Lisburn and Rainey Endowed School, Magherafelt at his residence to honour and encourage the teams' work with Asha.



A delegation of Members of House of Representatives, Japan visited Kanak Durga Slum colony. The group included Mr Ichiro Aisawa, Mr Katsuei Hirasawa, Mr Hirokazu Matsuno, Mr Kenta Izumi, Mr Takashi Ishizeki and Ms Yasuko Komiyama.



Mr Edward Davey, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, UK visited Asha's community based centre at Kanak Durga slum colony. He interacted with the Women's and Children's Associations, and took a few minutes out to play cricket with Asha students.



In November 2014, Irish Minister for Skills, Innovation & Research, Damien English visited Dr Ambedkar slum colony, accompanied by the Irish Ambassador HE Feilim McLaughlin, the head of Education in Ireland, Giles O'Neill, and Pat O'Riordan, Enterprise Ireland Director for India and South Asia.

Volunteers & Teams at Asha

Asha welcomes local and international volunteers, including people working in Diplomatic missions in Delhi to work with its various programmes. They teach English to groups of children in the slums, hold workshops for Asha's community-based workers, renovate Asha's slum based resource centres, act as mentors to individual university students, and support the Asha team in numerous capacities. With such assistance, we are seeing amazing progress in the ability of slum dwellers and their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.



Arjun Patel, a Physiology and Neuroscience student from University of California, San Diego taught English to students at Kalkaji slum colony.



Arjun Khazanchi, a student from Symbiosis Law School, Pune spent three weeks teaching English to children at Tigri slum colony.



Asha had the joy of welcoming a team of 25 people from Ballymena, Northern Ireland. They took up the challenging task of renovating our centre at Anna Nagar slum colony and constructing a house for a very poor resident of Savda slum colony.



Arun Ponsunmugan, medical student from Dartmouth University, USA leading an English conversation class with the Children's Association at Zakhira slum colony.



Asha was once again glad to welcome Bethanie Afton from the UK to teach English to children from Tigri slum colony.



Dr Radha Bhatt, Psychiatrist from the UK spent two weeks running clinics at various Asha communities.



A team of volunteers led by Carroll Williams from Northern Ireland visited Asha in October. They held workshops with the Children's Association at Mayapuri slum colony.



A team from City Life Church, Southampton, UK led by long-time Asha supporter Dan Pooley worked at Jeewan Nagar slum colony for one week. They conducted art workshops with the kids and spent time interacting with the community.



Emily and Sarah, students from Australia spent weeks teaching English to members of the Children's Association at Kalkaji slum colony. Emily is a student of Bachelors of Science at University of Melbourne and Sarah is a year 12 graduate from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.



Geoff, Police Officer, Kent Police and Alison, a teacher from the UK volunteered at Asha's Jeewan Nagar slum colony, teaching action songs and English conversation to the Children's Association.



A team of eight members from Global Generation Church, UK led by Asha Ambassador Mike Andrea painted the newly refurbished Asha centre at Anna Nagar slum colony.



Grace and Fabienne with Children's Association members at Tigri slum colony. Grace is pursuing a Bachelors in Social Anthropology from University of Manchester, and Fabienne is a Bachelors of Arts (History) student at University of Cardiff.



A team of 16 students and 4 teachers from Methodist College, Belfast, Northern Ireland spent two weeks at Kalkaji slum colony, and painted colourful murals on the walls, taught craft, dance and basic English skills to the children.



Monash University, Melbourne, Australia sent out a team of 10 post-graduate students and teachers to volunteer at Asha's Jeewan Nagar slum colony for one week in February.



Olivia Haskeel, 11th grade student from American Embassy School, New Delhi volunteered at Asha's Tigri slum colony, teaching basic English to the children.



Asha had the great joy of welcoming a team of seven members from The River, New York. The team also invited two of Asha's University students to join them on a trip to Agra.



Asha was glad to host a team from St Stephen's Church Twickenham, UK who worked at Tigri slum colony. Led by Asha supporter Amanda Clegg, the team spent almost a week painting the Asha resource centre in the slum and interacting with the community.



A team of 3 teachers led by Headmaster David Briggs from Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Primary School, Rugby, UK worked at Seelampur slum colony. Over the past few years the school has been supporting Asha's Higher Education Programme and has also included Asha in its curriculum.

Visitors & Supporters at Asha

After an incredible year, Asha would like to acknowledge our amazing supporters, without whom our work wouldn't be possible. We cannot thank them enough for the funds they contribute, the time they devote and the love they extend towards individuals residing in the slums of Delhi. It is indeed a credit to their dedication that we continue to see such transformation among Delhi's urban poor.



The Rotary Club of Delhi Southend presented Asha with medical equipment including blood pressure monitors, stethoscopes, baby weighing scales, vaccine carriers etc. to be used in Asha's health projects. The Rotarians have been valued supporters of Asha over the past many years.



Dr Kiran and Asha Student Ambassadors had the opportunity to meet Prof. Francis Clooney, Director, Centre for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University.



A group of students from Tokyo University visited Asha to observe the Asha model and to witness its impact, and also visited the Mobile clinics in the slums that were donated by the Japanese Embassy.



The students and teachers from American Embassy School, New Delhi visited Asha's centre at Kusumpur Pahari slum colony. They spent time interacting with the Women's and Children's Associations, and discussed issues such as the effects of globalization on the poor.



Asha Ambassador from South Africa, Rossana Cazzato visited Asha and spent time interacting with her former mentees Diwakar and Navita. Even after moving to another country, Rossana continues to be in touch with her mentees and had also opted for donations to Asha in lieu of gifts for her birthday this year.



Dr Kiran had the great joy of meeting with Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, Director of Australia India Institute at Asha. Prof Mattoo is also on the board of Australian Friends of Asha. They discussed how Asha and Australia India Institute could work together to continue to transform the lives of thousands of slum dwellers in India.



Asha welcomed Professor Sue Elliot, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Engagement), University of Melbourne; Mr Bill Burdett, Member of Board of Directors, Australian Friends of Asha; Mr Wayne Lewis, Commissioner to India, State Government of Victoria; Ms Gonul Serbest, Executive Director-Trade, Government of Victoria; Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary, Department of State Development-Business and Innovation and Mr Amitabh Mattoo, Director, Australia India Institute to its Kanak Durga slum colony



The Asha team was pleased to welcome Mr Harish Rao, Head-Asia Pacific, Sundaram Business Services and Member of Board of Directors of Australian Friends of Asha. Accompanying him were members of the Australian World Orchestra – Mr Alexander Briger (Artistic Director), Ms Gabrielle Thompson (CEO) and Mr Neil Thompson (Chairman).



A team of 10 farming scholars from Nuffield International visited Asha's Mayapuri slum colony. The team consisted of scholars from Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe and Netherlands. This was the fourth annual visit of scholars from Nuffield International to an Asha community.



Dr Kiran with Mr Philip Catania, Partner (IT & IP) and Mr Arvind Dixit, Senior Associate from Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Australia at Asha Headquarters. Prior to the meeting, Mr Catania and Mr Dixit visited the Asha community in Mayapuri slum colony to get a first-hand exposure to the work of Asha.



Mr Anil Sharma, MLA – R.K Puram, visited Asha headquarters to meet Dr Kiran and leaders of women's associations from Asha communities in South Delhi.



Elisa Jane Carmicheal, a renowned indigenous Australian artist, conducted a paint workshop with Asha children.

Events

Asha Celebrates Academic Excellence of its University Students

Asha's Celebration of Learning 2015 brought together several hundred people to congratulate Asha students who have excelled in their studies. Guests of Honour, Mr Satish Mehta, Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and HE Jess Dutton, Acting Canadian High Commissioner graced the occasion with their presence. Also present at the event were Mr Phil Leighton, Co-ordinator, Friends of Asha GB, Mr Anoop Bhatnagar and Ms Jolly Rohtagi, Board Members of Asha, Mr Y.K. Gaiha, Senior Retd. IRS Officer, and Mr D.S. Saxena, Chief Income Tax Commissioner.

Some of Asha's remarkable students shared their journey of excellence - from high schools to renowned universities and now working with prestigious companies across India. The stories of transformation were followed by an Award Ceremony to honour University students for their academic excellence during 2013-14. The event was also a platform for the release of music albums of Dr Kiran, Founder and Director of Asha and Shri Vinod Kumar, eminent *ghazal* singer and Dr Kiran's music teacher.

The event concluded on a musical note with a concert of timeless classics and *ghazals* by Dr Kiran and Shri Vinod Kumar. They performed a selection of songs from their albums, which the audiences enjoyed thoroughly.



Australian High Commission hosts Cricket match for young cricketers from Asha slums

In October 2014, the Australian High Commission (AHC) hosted a T-20 cricket match for Asha's university students. Organised with a view to strengthen the ties between the High Commission and Asha, the match also served as a great opportunity for the students to receive training and play in a professional environment.

Prior to the match, the AHC had also hosted two training sessions giving an opportunity to the Asha boys to train with the High Commission's cricket team. Australian sports and fitness equipment manufacturer Spartan Sports sponsored the teams' uniform.

It was a glorious morning and both the teams played extremely well. Dr Kiran applauded both the teams for their wonderful performance in the match.



Music Concert to thank our Volunteers



February 12, 2015 was an evening filled with much joy when Dr Kiran took to the stage to render a collection of old Bollywood classics at Sri Sathya Sai auditorium in Delhi.

Nearly 300 guests attended the concert to pay tribute to Asha's volunteer teams from Monash University, Australia; Methodist College Belfast, Northern Ireland and Asha's Delhi based volunteers. Guests of honour were Irish Ambassador, HE Feilim McLaughlin and Acting Australian High Commissioner, Mr Bernard Philip.

The event began with Asha Student Ambassador, Ajay from Kusumpur Pahari slum colony, talking about his journey with Asha. This was followed by representatives from both the teams and from Asha's Delhi based volunteers fondly sharing their experiences of being associated with Asha.

Following this, Dr Kiran had the audience spellbound with a concert of old melodies of renowned Indian playback singer, Lata Mangeshkar from 60's and 70's. Dr Kiran's performance so enthralled the audience that they were cheering for each song amidst roaring applause.



A Tribute to Mr P Chidambaram, for his longstanding support for Asha Communities



On May 7, 2014 the Australian High Commissioner HE Patrick Suckling kindly hosted an evening to pay tribute to India's Finance Minister, Hon'ble Shri P. Chidambaram and his longstanding support for Asha communities. The event was attended by many Asha supporters including representatives from renowned companies who have provided internships to Asha students. Also attending the event were the Former Union Minister Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar, the US Ambassador HE Nancy Powell, the New Zealand High Commissioner HE Grahame Morton and the Canadian High Commissioner HE Stewart Beck.

Dr Kiran acknowledged Mr Chidambaram's distinguished contributions in Asha's Financial Inclusion and Higher Education Programmes. This unleashed a whole new era of economic opportunity and secure future for the urban poor in Delhi. Mr Chidambaram

further encouraged students by awarding some of them for their outstanding achievements in high school, college and during internship. Reflecting on the amazing support provided by Friends of Asha groups in the UK, US, Ireland and Australia, Dr Kiran proudly announced the formation of the Friends of Asha Delhi, to be chaired by Mr Bernard Philip, Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to India.



Asha Students receive awards from Governor of Victoria

On 17th February, Asha was delighted to host Hon Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria, and his wife, Mrs Elizabeth Chernov. Together with members of the board of Australian Friends of Asha, they visited Kanak Durgaslum colony.

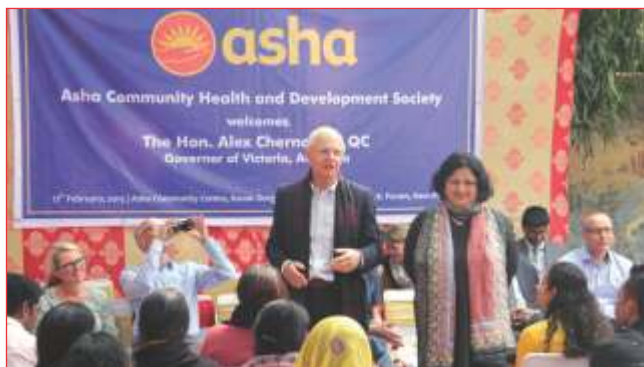
The delegation heard from women who narrated their journey towards empowerment, whilst students shared stories of their experiences at university and work. Mr Chernov thanked the community for their warm welcome, and promised to be back again soon. He remarked, "It is spectacular to see the women who have taken care of this Asha community, and the students who have developed so well. All I can say is – it's inspirational and I congratulate everybody."

In the evening, Asha and the Australian High Commission hosted a joint reception to honour the Governor. The event was attended by many Asha supporters.

Nine students from Asha slums were presented with awards to recognise their achievements in high school exams, during internships and as Asha Student Ambassadors.

Mr Chernov, Dr Kiran and acting Australian High Commissioner, Mr Bernard Philip spoke about the close ties between Australia and Asha. Babita, an Asha Student Ambassador from Dr Ambedkar slum colony, then had the entire audience almost in tears as she narrated the journey of her life, concluding with the happy news that she has managed to secure a job at a prestigious research institute.

With continued support from the High Commission, and the people and government of Australia, Asha hopes to reach many such landmarks with its students in the years to come.



Independent Audit Report



R. MEDIRATTA & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
ASHA COMMUNITY HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of **Asha Community Health and Development Society** as at 31st March 2015 and also the Income & Expenditure Account & Receipt & Payment Account for the year ended on that date, annexed thereto and report that:

We conducted our audit in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in India. Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material mis-statement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We report that:

- a) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- b) In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Society so far as appears from our examination of those books.
- c) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to explanation given to us the said accounts give a true & fair view.
 - i) In the case of Balance Sheet of the state of affairs of the above named Society as at 31st March 2015.
 - ii) In the case of Income and Expenditure Account of the Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

For **R. MEDIRATTA & ASSOCIATES**
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS


(**RAKESH MEDIRATTA**)
FCA
PROPRIETOR

PLACE : NEW DELHI

DATE : 30/6/15

Asha Community Health & Development Society
Abstract of Financials for the year ender March 31, 2015*

S.No.	Particulars	Amount (In INR)
A	Sources of Fund	
A.1	Capital Fund	136260060
	Less: Application towards Fixed Assets	102384182
A.2	Restricted Funds	74648778
A.3	Staff Gratuity Fund	6003624
	Total (A1+A2+A3)	114528280
B	Application of Funds	
B.1	Change in Working Capital	
B.1.1	Current Assets & Loans and Advances	
→	Current Assets	
	Closing Stock	124751
	Cash & Cash Equivalents	114189547
→	Loans And Advances	1071854
	Total (B1.1-B1.2)	115386152
B.1.2	Less:Current Liabilities & Provision	
	Security Deposit(Salary)	857872
	Total (B1.1-B1.2)	114528280

Financial Activities during the F.Y 2014-2015**

S.No.	Particulars	Amount (In INR)
C	Revenue(s) earned	
C.1	Income from All Contributions, Donations and Grants	60736575
C.2	Clinic Receipts	2861756
C.3	Interest (From Bank & Income tax Refund)	8598360
	Total (C1+C2+C3)	72196691
D	Expense(s) incurred	
D.1	Running & Maintenance Of Clinics/Centers	33168364
D.2	Welfare/Empowerment of Women	1331962
D.3	Awareness Camps/Seminars/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences	9043940
D.4	Welfare of Children	9121146
D.5	Asset Procurement	4120701
D.6	Administrative Expenses	2253331
D.7	Other Expenses	20808
D.8	Depreciation on Assets	3079442
	Total (D1+D2+D3+D4+D5+D6+D7+D8)	62139693
E	Excess of Revenue over Expenses (C-D) transferred to fund(s)	10056998

*Please note that this balance sheet is an abstract only and is solely meant for the purpose of being published in the Annual report of Asha. This statement is not meant to be used before any other forum. For the actual set of Balance Sheet and allied financial statements prepared in accordance with law in force in the territory of India, Asha may be contacted for having a copy.

**F.Y 2014-2015 in India extends from April 01, 2014 till March 31, 2015

Signed in terms of our report of even date

For R.Mediratta & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Rakesh Mediratta
(Rakesh Mediratta)
FCA, Proprietor
Place: New Delhi
Date: 30/6/15

For Asha Community Health and
Development Society

K. Srinivas
(Director)

Vijay
(Treasurer)



Thank you to all our supporters, campaigners, staff, and volunteers for your support during the year and for sharing our ambitions for a world of equality.

Asha Community Health and Development Society

Ekta Vihar, R K Puram Sector 6, New Delhi 110022, India.

Tel. +91-11-26196857 / 26170618 | Fax. +91-11-26179844 | Email: info@asha-india.org

Website: www.asha-india.org | Director's Blog: drkiranmartin.wordpress.com



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Asha Community Health & Development Society is registered under the Societies of Registration Act of 1860. The Registration Number is S/20849 of 1990. Asha is authorised to receive funds under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. Contributions to Asha are exempt under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act. Asha is granted Income Tax exemption under Section 10 (23c) (6a).